

## **Utah State Veterans Memorial Park Board Meeting**

March 27, 2015 2:00 pm

### **Members present:**

Gary Harter  
Sanford Rosenthal  
Lester Peterson  
Tony Galvez

### **Members excused:**

Paula Stephenson

### **Staff:**

Arnold Warner  
Kelli Silcox

### **Business:**

Welcome and Introduction: Gary welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Special Events: Memorial Day Ceremony. Gary and Arnold brought up the Memorial Day event and changes that will be made this year. The traffic pattern that will be happening this year is different due to issues in previous years. It will now enter through one gate, drive all the way around the cemetery and out the other gate instead of in/ out both ways. Gary also brought up that it may be beneficial to contact local PD to assist with traffic issues for the event.

Review and Approval of Fees: Gary informed everyone that the Veteran claim amount given to the cemetery for each veteran placed here has increased. It was discussed about raising the Saturday burial fee.

Supervisor Report and Equipment Needs: Arnold handed out a copy of the different equipment needed in the cemetery over the next year and explained them to the board. Quotes have been obtained for each item that is needed.

They are as follows:

Mule \$15,000  
Shuttle/ Golf Cart \$8,000  
Dump Truck \$80,000  
Backhoe \$140,000

Tony mentioned that there are companies that buy equipment and when they are finished with them and they are still in good condition they donate them and that might be a possible thing to look into for the cemetery needs. Gary stated that for the most part, for now, we will be sticking with State Contracts because it is much faster and easier for us to get the equipment we need.

Burial Numbers YTD: Arnold gave everyone a copy of the cemetery YTD numbers. He told the group that it still looks like we are increasing in burial numbers per month again so far this year.

Gary brought up the possibility of a new cemetery that has not been discussed so far in Davis county. There are a couple of men that own a cemetery that are looking into possibly donating it to the Veteran and Military Affairs to have it be a Northern location for a Veteran Cemetery in Utah. Gary also informed the board that the land owners to the North of the cemetery are no longer willing to sell that plot of land to us to use as an expansion of the current cemetery grounds. It is looking like it will be 2025 at least when Utah Veterans Cemetery is going to run out of casketed room. St. George is still a possibility as well. The VA still currently looking for land in that area for new cemetery grounds.

Sanford brought up the issues with the sign in front of the cemetery and the difficulty in seeing it from Redwood Rd. he suggested having bigger letters that are easier to see when driving and possibly changing the color to something other than bronze that blends in so well with the brick it is hard to see. Sanford also stated that the cemetery cement should be replaced/ repaired fairly soon as it is dangerous. There are currently places throughout the cemetery that are cracked, sinking, crumbling and falling off that are unsafe for the cemetery patrons.

Gary stated that the utilities i.e. gas bill, has dropped recently. He and Arnold agree that it is mostly due to having the better insulation installed by Arnold and the mild winter this year.

Sanford asked Arnold about the fountain where the George E. Wahlen statue stands, is it good the way it is, or in Arnold's opinion does it need to be changed? Arnold expressed his concern for the statue being raised where it stands currently being a danger. Many children climb and jump on the fountain area because it is there. If the statue was flush with the ground there may not be any of the issues with children and it might be safer.

Arnold thinks the area by the chapel needs to be addressed. The concrete is cracking and breaking and once again not safe for patrons of the cemetery. Gary asked Kelli to add this information to our 1 year Goals with the department.

Arnold also brought up a couple of other issues that he thinks needs to be added on to the 1 year goals with the cemetery and done as soon as we are able to have them done. Section D needs to be addressed. It does not set well in that section due to the ground being uneven, the grass is bad and non matching. Arnold believes it will be best for that section to kill off all the grass and start all over in that corner. Gary asked Kelli to also add this information the Cemetery's 1 year goals. Gary asked Arnold about the speaker system for the cemetery inside and outside of the Chapel. Arnold explained that it is being taken care of right away. He has been working on it with DFCM offices in salt lake. It should be completed and ready to use for the Memorial Day event.

**There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.**